<u>IN THE CLAIMS</u>

Please amend the following claims:

A 1

8. (Amended) Image encoding method according to claim 1, characterized in that said mass collage function w_M is written in the form of a combination of oscillating functions whose number and/or frequency and/or amplitude can be parametrized.

A 2

14. (Amended) Application of the method according to claim 1 to at least one of the fields belonging to the group comprising the following fields:

- compression of fixed images;

- compression (of images) in "intra" mode in a video encoder;

- compression of images or of a part of the images that are textured;

- magnification (zooming) of image zones;

- compression in spaces having a size greater than 2.

<u>REMARKS</u>

The above preliminary amendment is made to remove multiple dependencies from claims 8 and 14.

A new abstract page is supplied to conform to that appearing on the publication page of the WIPO application, but the new Abstract is typed on a separate page as required by U.S. practice.

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